GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3762
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
COMMUNITY LISTENING SCHEME
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the supply of receiving sets by the government under the community listening scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise/Union territory-wise; and ;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to preserve and maintain the relevance and importance of radio in the present T.V. era?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): Nil.

(b): All India Radio reaches about99% of population and 92% of geographical area in the country. Programmes on AIR remain preferred one in rural and semi-urban areas, since the emphasis is more on useful information and meaningful education, like healthy life and living, new and modern agricultural practices, acquaintance with national and international events, news bulletins in many languages and dialects. Phone-in- programmes have also been introduced for live interaction with the audience. FM Radiodue to its noise free reception has become very popular in urban areas and the metros. To expand the reach of FM in the country, 72 Nos. of new FM stations have been proposed in the draft 10th Five Year Plan.